

REMARKS

Independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 9, respectively, cancelled by this amendment, and to emphasize the fine and coarse, (only) two- layer, filtration portion construction of only glass paper and non woven fibre mat, enabling the thicknesses of both layers to be changed by preselection to adjust the filtration efficiency and pressure drop, as described in relation to the first and second embodiment on page 9 of the specification. Claims 18 and 19 have also been amended to limit to an only two- layer structure, while claim 23 has been amended to emphasize that the glass paper is only on a gas inlet side of the filtration portion and that the non-woven fabric is only on the gas outlet side of the glass paper.

In addition to the advantage of the two-layer construction enabling the thicknesses of each layers to be adjusted simply by changing the number of turns to match differing requirements of filtration efficiency and pressure drop, the claimed provision of only a coarse pore layer (second layer, non-woven fabric) on the gas outlet side of the filtration portion enables a reliably small pressure loss characteristic to be obtained in the filter which would not be possibly if an additional, fine pore layer were also present as there would then be a risk of the additional layer being clogged by larger drops of oil which had formed in the fine (glass paper) layer.

The examiner's withdrawal of the reference Knight in the final action is noted.

However, having regard to the rejection of previously presented claims 1-4, 6-11, and 13-22, as anticipated and, previously presented claimed 23 and 24 as unpatentable over Seibert et al, it is respectfully pointed out that the Seibert reference does not disclose or teach the two-layer structure of the filtration portion as now claimed.

As pointed out in the prior response, col 10, lines 1-6 of Seibert teach a coalescer portion requiring, instead of only one layer of glass paper, three distinctly different layers -outer and inner layers of cellulose paper sandwiching a middle layer(s) of non-woven epoxy bonded fibrous mat of glass fibers.

The multiple layers of different materials would prevent the filtration

efficiency and pressure loss characteristics to be adjusted easily by simple preselection of the number of turns in a manufacturing procedure. Furthermore, the presence of multiple layers and a sheet of cellulose paper, interposed between the non-woven epoxy bonded fibrous mat of glass fibers 9 and the outermost stripping layer (SP) may both increase a risk of clogging with an undesirable increase in pressure drop without an increase in filtration efficiency and, hamper the transfer of oil drops from the glass fiber mat to the stripping layer. Please note that, contrary to the examiner's assertion on Page 5, second sentence, the glass fiber mat 9 is not in intimate contact with the non-woven fabric filtration layer (SP) but separated therefrom by the outer layer of cellulose paper - refer to col 10, lines 1-6.

It is urged that, although involving a simpler structure than Seibert, the above noted advantages of the claimed invention are significant in the practical environment of filter manufacture and operation of filters, and represent a different, in a sense opposite, approach from Seibert which directs the technician towards a more complex and less adaptable structure - such advantages therefore evidently being unforeseen, which is a criterion indicative of patentability.

Accordingly, it is respectfully pointed out that the rejections of anticipation and obviousness are now obviated and the claims define patentable subject matter. Further, favorable consideration of the application is requested.

An extension of the period permitted for reply by one month is requested and authorization is given to deduct the fee of \$60 from deposit account 21-0760 of the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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